THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) IAF procure a wide range of rockets, depending on its needs, from time to time. The details of vendor, contract etc. can only be provided if the specific type of rocket, and the transaction is indicated.

Recruitment in Officers Cadre in IAF

812. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of officers in Indian Air Force and people are not showing interest in joining the services;

(b) if so, steps being taken in this regard; and

(c) the recruitments made in the officers cadre during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There is some shortage of officers in the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Sustained publicity efforts are on to attract talented youth to the IAF. Schools and colleges are regularly visited by service officers to generate interest among qualified youth alongwith motivational campaigns. A website is also operational on the internet to provide career information.

(c) In the calendar year 2003, 347 officers have already been commissioned in the IAF and 127 more are likely to be commissioned during December, 2003.

Development schemes for naxalite affected districts

†813. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently prepared any scheme for development of the districts affected by the naxalite movements;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that further allocation of Rs, 2,475 crore has been made for the said scheme;

(c) if so, the details of the said scheme; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.